

THE GATEWAY

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MATT FISHER

NOTHING SPELLS PUNK ROCK LIKE STYROFOAM ARMOUR Except perhaps two giant alien penises spraying fake semen/blood, dying the skin and perverting the minds of hundreds of screaming fans. Luckily GWAR has both covered.

Acoustic vocal laboratory in the works

EDMON ROTEA
News Writer

A computer program designed to help choir singers improve harmonies is the latest innovation bringing science and music together. With a grant from the Canada Foundation for Innovation, Laurier Fagnan is set to establish Canada's first vocal acoustics laboratory next year at the Faculté Saint-Jean.

Fagnan, an assistant professor and choir conductor, will employ the laboratory for a variety of applications, including vocal pedagogy and linguistic research.

Singers, both choir and solo per-

formers, will have the opportunity to utilize the laboratory to improve their singing in real time, allowing them to map their voices as they sing.

"It will be very interesting. We will be able to train singers by employing their ears and also their eyes."

**LAURIER FAGNAN,
U OF A PROFESSOR**

"Acoustical analysis equipment will

enable someone to sing into a microphone and see many of the properties of their voice displayed before them on a screen," Fagnan explained.

They will be able to see how well they are singing in tune as they sing a phrase or as they sing different valves; if they always go flat on one valve, they'll be able to see that and rectify it."

The laboratory will also enhance the way singers are trained, Fagnan explained.

"It will be very interesting. We will be able to train singers by employing their ears and also their eyes," Fagnan said.

PLEASE SEE MUSICLAB • PAGE 3

Aboriginal students less likely to graduate: study

TESSA VANDERHART
The Manitoban

WINNIPEG—Too few aboriginal students are educated at a postsecondary level, according to recent studies. Despite overall increases, the graduation rate for aboriginal students continues to be proportionally less than it should be.

Moreover, the gaps between aboriginal and non-aboriginal Canadians in university education remain glaring, despite near equity in high school and college graduation rates, as well as phenomenal gains in employment levels.

Particularly in the prairies—Winnipeg has the highest proportion of native peoples in the West—not enough aboriginal students are graduating from university.

Tara Williamson is the aboriginal students' representative for the University of Manitoba Students' Union. She explained the crux of the current issues in aboriginal education.

"An increase in graduation rates without a closing of the gap in rates doesn't eliminate or diminish inequity," she said.

She argued that retaining aboriginal students, while increasing the student population, will require time and effort.

"There is a generation of role models for students where there may not have been before—this helps to break down the myths that postsecondary education is not for aboriginal students. It makes education seem more accessible."

Williamson also questioned the interpretation of the many studies being done on the postsecondary experience of native students, wondering whether they are of any benefit.

"The U of M claims to be the top choice in the province for aboriginal students, but the U of M is also the only choice for many programs," she said.

In addition, many aboriginal university students choose fields of study that differ from their non-aboriginal peers. Also, many aboriginal students take longer to complete degrees, entering university later in life, and are more likely to have children while attending.

As a result of these factors, as well as funding cuts and shortages, the various academic and access programs intended to improve graduation rates of aboriginal students have focused on recruiting new students rather than retaining current ones, which is equally important, Williamson said.

PLEASE SEE GRADRATE • PAGE 2

Medical students showcase their professional talent

CHLOÉ FEDO
Deputy News Editor

After the dust settled and it was announced that Medshow, as the University has known it for 57 years, will no longer exist, Dean of Medicine Dr Tom Marrie said it was high time for medical students to focus their skills on helping the community.

One such initiative, the Student Health Initiative for the Needs of Edmonton (SHINE), is a student-led clinic that brings together all the health sciences faculties to reach out to the needs of the community. With supervision from professionals, students from different faculties put together a plan to provide medical care for street youth who may not have access to it otherwise.

Ashish Mahajan, executive director of the SHINE clinic, is a third-year medical student who was instrumental in the creation of the project almost two years ago.

"As students, we felt that we weren't able to put our skills to use in the community during our education, and that was something that was important to us."

"We didn't really have many

opportunities to work together with other health sciences faculties during the course of our education [but this project made room for that]," said Mahajan.

"As students, we felt that we weren't able to put our skills to use in the community during our education and that was something that was important to us."

**ASHISH MAHAJAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SHINE**

While the Medshow did provide the opportunity for students to show that they have senses of humour aside from their academic faces, Marrie said it was more damaging than anything else.

"There's no question we've had adverse publicity from the Medshow; Medshow won't be occurring as it did in the past, because in this day and age it's actually inappropriate," Marrie said.

PLEASE SEE SHINE • PAGE 2

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Masters Mania

The World Masters Games came to Edmonton and our reports were there. Check out our in-depth coverage.

COVERAGE STARTS ON PAGE 6



Head-On to despair

In 2003 the German film *Head-On* won the Deutschland equivalent of five Oscars. Tony Santin tells you why.

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colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, Unix PowerPC 1000 flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of Helvetica, Garamond, and Arial. The Gateway is the Gateway's sister paper. The Gateway's games of choice are Final Fantasy VII, NHL 04, and Mac OS X Chess.

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Aboriginal students struggle

GRADUATE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Access program is one of the most important programs at the University of Manitoba for ensuring the graduation of marginalized students.

Bruce Miller is an academic advisor for the Access program. He emphasizes that, while many of the students in the program are aboriginal, aboriginal students in general don't rely on external support systems.

"A typical aboriginal student does struggle at university," said Miller.

He explained that the Access program tends to deal with students who would not normally attend university: students from remote areas, single parents, recent immigrants and people with little formal education.

"Despite maybe living in an urban centre, which most of us do, they are confined to the [poorer areas], which is really living on the margins of society. Some face more barriers than others, including structural racism and low-income situations," said Miller.

"It's not a question of intelligence; it's a matter of circumstance. And we try to create the circumstances."

"We contribute to the overall seven per cent aboriginal graduation rate [at the U of M], which is over twice the national average," said Miller.

Louise Gordon, the executive direc-

tor of the Council on Post Secondary Education (COPSE), says that the Manitoba Government makes retention of aboriginal students one of its highest educational priorities through several COPSE funding initiatives.

"It's not a question of intelligence; it's a matter of circumstance. And we try to create the circumstances."

BRUCE MILLER,
ACCESS PROGRAM ADVISOR

She noted several issues in aboriginal education, including differences in learning styles and culture shock, which may reduce the graduation rate of native students.

"The universities have worked very hard to support aboriginal students. A number of supports have been put in place for aboriginal students, making it a warmer, more supportive place," said Gordon.

"Institutions have to work to make sure that aboriginal students are integrated. I think we've begun, but there is always more that can be done."

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Chloé Fedio
(chloe@gatewayualberta.ca)

THIS FIRE IS OUT OF CONTROL

On Tuesday, 2 August at 3:30 p.m., Campus 5-0 received a report of a fire on the first floor of South Lab. The fire alarm was activated and the building was evacuated. The Edmonton Fire Department, including the Dangerous Goods team, and Environmental Health and Safety arrived to investigate. It was determined that a tank was leaking fluorine, and though it was contained in an explosion-proof structure, it was considered to be unstable.

5-0 cordoned off area around South Lab, Rutherford, and Powerplant as a safety precaution. The Dangerous Goods team, who entered South Lab in full gear and breathing apparatus, determined that gas in the tank burned off. The investigation by EHS is continuing.

PROWLING GANGSTER

At about 10 p.m. on Saturday, 30 July, an intoxicated male was identified at the

south end of HUB mall. The drunkard had an extensive criminal record of violence and property-related offences. Several needles were confiscated from the individual, who was found to have out-of-province gang affiliations. The man was trespassing and escorted off campus.

WANNABEHEROES

On Friday, 29 July at about 3:30 p.m., a staff member on campus reported that she was approached by two suspicious males at the west loading dock of BioSci who were looking for a certain professor who deals with uranium. The men told her that this was "serious business" and that a certain group was "bringing uranium from planet Earth." The men had traveled to the U of A from out of town because of an online article about alleged uranium dumping in Iraq and wanted to enlist the assistance of academics to fight this "act of wrongfulness." The men asserted that their work was confidential and they were fearful of government repercussions.

Men meeting the same description also visited the Gateway offices, where they demanded that the photo editor photocopy some very important documents. After trying to convince them that he did not know how to use the

SHINE helps street youths

SHINE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The negative attention given to medical students, including an influx of letters from nurse advocacy groups due to the portrayal of nurses in the Medshow, has taken away from the contributions that medical students give to the community, Marrie said.

Despite comedic skits that displayed antagonism between nurses and doctors in the Medshow, it is not reflective of the true relationship between the two groups, Marrie continued.

"There's no doubt in my mind, having observed [medical] students in action and seeing how they've interacted with nurses, that they're respectful of nurses," Marrie said.

Mahajan, who was not involved in the Medshow this year, agrees that the role of nurses should not be undermined and that it's important for faculties of different disciplines to find a common ground to work together.

"I can tell you that [SHINE] is working very closely with nurses; there are nurses on the executive of this initiative and there are nurses in strong leadership positions. In fact, the two biggest faculties involved are nursing and medicine, so it's very much a joint project," Mahajan said.

SHINE has given students an

opportunity to learn hands-on and work in a multidisciplinary environment while providing a service to a group in need, perhaps better than the standard medical system, Marrie explained.

"Street youth are going to be able to relate to students a lot better than the average physician," Marrie said.

While students were proud of their efforts in creating the cutting-edge humour that was the Medshow, projects like SHINE make evident their talents as professionals, Marrie said.

"You can't start to deliver care to people and then walk away from it. The students realize that responsibility."

DR TOM MARRIE,
DEAN OF MEDICINE

"SHINE is a long project that keeps on going. Once you do this, you've got an obligation to sustain it."

"You can't start to deliver care to people and then walk away from it. The students realize that responsibility," Marrie said.

ONE-MAN BUSH PARTY

At about 11 a.m. on Thursday, 28 July, Campus Security reported seeing a male hiding behind trees and plants around the southwest corner of the Butterdome. The man was identified, and had no University affiliation. A small amount of drugs were recovered and he left the area.

CRIME IN LISTER HALL

At about 6 a.m. on Sunday, 24 July, a victim of sexual assault was taken from Lister Hall to the U of A Emergency Room. EPS was contacted and identified the suspect. Both the complainant and suspect are not affiliated with the University. The investigation continues.

BROWN-BAGGING IT

At approximately 3 p.m. on Friday, 22 July, Campus Security stumbled upon a man and woman enjoying a bottle of wine on the north side of the Extension Centre. The man had a criminal record for violence and property-related offences and was arrested on an outstanding warrant. The woman also had a criminal record relating to violence, sex and property offences. She had court conditions prohibiting contact with the man, so she was also arrested. Both were turned over to the Edmonton Police Services.

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STREETERS

Compiled and photographed
by Chloé Fedio and Jake Troughton

Last year, the Powerplant operated at a loss of \$60 000. This year, the Students' Union actually budgeted for the bar to lose \$30 000.

Is having a campus bar worth the cost of its operation?



Decabalus Ani
Arts IV

Well you have to have a bar on campus. It's part of school spirit. Maybe they should do a better job of advertising. A \$60 000 loss is a lot of money, but you still have to have a bar.



Lindsay Gifford
Science II

No. Whyte Ave is right near by, and if there's availability of pubs—because of course kids are going to drink—right near by, I think it's just a waste of money. It's a ridiculous loss. We don't need a pub right at the University when there's some just across the street.



Dru Anthony
Arts IV

I think it's a good place for students to go. Maybe last year wasn't so good, but it could be better next year.



David Hollishead
Arts IV

\$60 000 is a lot of money to lose, but I'm going to keep going to the Powerplant, even if it's only on welcome week, and I'm going to appreciate it. It's not a bad venue for bands. I go to a lot of live shows around here and I know that Dinwoodie is pretty shitty—the Powerplant would be better.

Vocal laboratory created

New acoustic lab to provide research opportunity and improve sound quality of choral singers.

MUSICLAB • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Fagnan's laboratory, which should be up and running within nine months, will open doors to a host of potential research opportunities, especially in the field of linguistics. As the only francophone postsecondary institution west of Winnipeg, Fagnan said that the Faculté Saint-Jean is a centre for French-speakers in Western Canada.

"We have many Anglophones who come to the Faculté Saint-Jean to study French, and one of our aims is to give them the best education in French that we possibly can. That includes—when they leave here, when they speak—having a beautiful French accent."

"This lab will enable us to do some research into the question, 'What is a beautiful French accent? What are its vocal components? What are its linguistic components?'" he explained.

The laboratory may also be used to develop special programs helpful to the speaking voices of schoolteachers.

"Teachers often lose their voices in a school setting. When they're speaking in front of a classroom for eight hours of the day there is a lot of vocal abuse, so we'll be looking at ways in which we can develop a program that will be helpful to the speaking voice," said Fagnan.

In addition to helping teachers,

Fagnan, a scholar in bel canto—a method of operatic singing prevalent in 18th and 19th century Italy—hopes to further his research of adapting the bel canto method of vocal instruction for choral training.

Using sophisticated equipment and software developed at the Paris-based Institute for Research in Musical Acoustics (IRCAM), Fagnan will marry the field of music, science, and technology to improve the sound quality of choral singers.

"There will be equipment to analyze the efficient vibration of the vocal cords," Fagnan said.

Such advanced equipment includes a plethysmograph, a set of electrodes placed around a person's ribs that measures the use of air while they're singing.

"It will measure how the body and the voice work together and how breath control and vocal production can be looked at as a whole," Fagnan explained.

Fagnan hopes that his laboratory will create and facilitate more research projects and collaborations between post-secondary and research institutions.

"This will really draw people to the Faculté Saint-Jean for collaborative research and make the Faculté a real place of excellence in vocal research," Fagnan said.

started things off by presenting the results of a survey conducted last year about SU elections and the reasons students provided for not voting in them.

Before Council could debate the first bill, which proposed that voting on referendum questions be held at the same time as councilor elections, Arts Councilor Heather Wallace introduced a motion calling for the formation of an ad-hoc committee. Wallace's proposal called on this committee to conduct a wide-ranging examination of the elections process and the visibility of the SU and report back to Council in the spring with recommendations.

After a fierce debate and a flurry of proposed amendments, Engineering Councilor James Crossman struck the knockout blow against Wallace's proposal and the larger issues of wholesale electoral reform. Crossman compared the ad-hoc committee proposal as an attempt at a "Meek Lake Agreement" that tried to satisfy everyone and fix all the problems at once but would probably fail on both counts.

Crossman continued, reminding Council that massive changes to the elections process were made only a few years before, and that perhaps it would be best to give those changes some time to take effect.

After having spent the better part of two successive meetings debating the proposed changes, Crossman's words essentially ground the issue to a halt. When the dust settled, more than two-thirds of councilors voted down Wallace's proposed committee and then tabled the bill indefinitely, essentially killing it. The next bill, which would have swapped the dates of the SU executive and councilor elections, met the same fate.

COUNCIL NOTES

• Tobias also informed Council during his report that he was planning to seek more revenue for the SU from corporate sponsors looking to gain access to the student market.

• Vice-President (Academic) Mathieu Johnson informed Council that the University's modern pool didn't receive enough subscribers to maintain operation, so it will be shut down.

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OPINION

opinion@gatewayualberta.ca • Thursday, 4 August, 2005

Marc Emery must not be extradited

SO MARC EMERY HAS BEEN ARRESTED AGAIN, and this time, it seems, it's serious. Marc Emery, for those of you who don't know, is the president of the British Columbia Marijuana Party. He runs a prolific marijuana seed distribution company, or ran one I should say, as it has now been raided and shut down. He is famous for having smoked marijuana in front of police stations across the country in the summer of 2003 to demonstrate the absence of valid anti-marijuana laws. And he has frequently been put through the Canadian legal system on pot-related charges: a conviction in 2004 for "trafficking" comes to mind, when he was seen by police officers to have passed a joint to a university student. Heaven forbid.

Ordinarily, Mr Emery's arrest wouldn't surprise me. When you openly flout standing laws—hypocritical and asinine though they are—and are an outspoken political activist, the attentions of law enforcement officials are likely to be disproportionately directed towards you, regardless of whether this should be the case in an ostensibly rational and free society.

What does trouble me about Mr Emery's arrest is that it was not initiated by Canadian law enforcement. The investigation and subsequent arrest of Mr Emery was a result of the attentions of the American Drug Enforcement Administration, an agency which is now requesting his extradition. If extradited, he will be tried on charges of conspiracy to distribute marijuana and marijuana seeds, and conspiracy to launder money. Given his unabashed involvement in the legalization movement and the simple existence of a seed distribution company bearing his name, a conviction would be assured. The maximum sentence, when convicted, is life imprisonment.

Now I understand that as a sovereign nation, the United States has the right to create and enforce any laws which it chooses, no matter how ludicrous. But Canada has the right—and the obligation—to protect its citizens from persecution deemed unjust or excessive. Surely we must admit that in a country which no longer prosecutes the distribution of marijuana seeds, which in many areas willfully neglects to prosecute the traffic of marijuana, and which as a whole is considering its decriminalization, the extradition of a political activist to face some of the harshest prison sentences and conditions on the continent is inconsistent, to put it mildly.

The American War on Drugs has failed in its objectives and caused considerable social harm. This most recent attempt to force misguided and ineffective law enforcement methods across our border is an imposition we must not tolerate. If Marc Emery is extradited to be prosecuted for actions which we on the whole no longer believe to be criminal, it will be an infringement upon our sovereignty as a nation, our rights to free expression and behaviour as individuals, and our belief in political freedom. Serious, indeed.

TIM PEPPIN
Opinion Editor

Paul Martin rehires Adrienne Clarkson

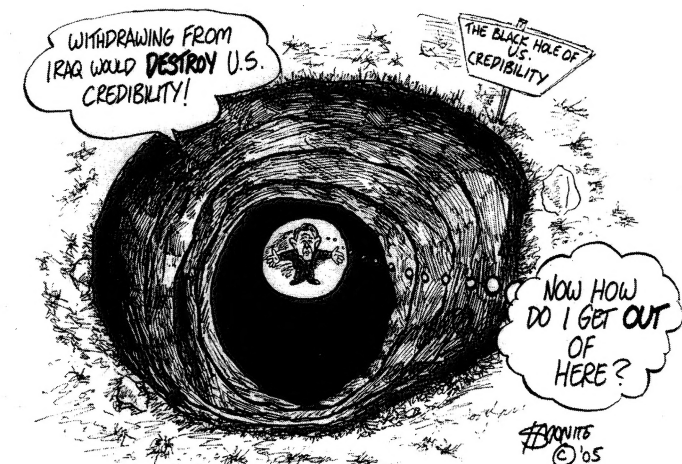
PAUL MARTIN MUST HAVE THOROUGHLY enjoyed the work that Adrienne Clarkson did in her role as Governor General. Otherwise, he wouldn't have given her a second term.

Oh, I guess technically he didn't hire Clarkson another term in the position in so much as he didn't actually appoint her, but her replacement, Haitian, born Quebec journalist Michelle Jean, shares so many similarities to the outgoing titular head of Canada that it hardly seems meaningful to make a distinction between them.

Both are female immigrants from ethnic minorities. Neither is a politician or was on a patronage shortlist. Both are award winning-journalists. Heck, both got scooped into the Governor General position from poth positions at CBC.

The argument can be made that these are superficial similarities. But when you are dealing with a superficial position, that's all there really is to judge.

DANIEL KASZOR
Editor-in-Chief



LETTERS

The return of hockey isn't worth coverage

So we have hockey again ("The NHL is back," 21 July), and I want to know who cares? It makes me sick to live in Canada sometimes—hockey this and hockey that, all the time, everywhere. I mean, I know the Gateway has a sports section and everything, and hockey coming back is definitely sports news, but hockey is really boring. Shuffling around on skates with bad hair, fighting like kids. Watching it is boring enough, but just reading about it coming back? A couple of sentences could have told us what was going on.

And what was with all the NASCAR attention over the last few weeks? NASCAR isn't even really a sport. People are mad because people don't like NASCAR? Why doesn't the Gateway cover next year's Rubik cube twisting championship? Or the rock-paper-scissors world championship? I don't care how hard people think it is, it's still driving a car around an oval, isn't a sport, supposed to have body movement? Anyway, I just wanted to say that I think hockey sucks. I don't care about the strike being over or the players or anything else, and I hope you guys aren't planning on running any more hockey articles.

LUKE MOWEN
Arts 1

University Ritalin abuse about to intensify

Hey Gateway, I just wanted to say thanks for the great article on Ritalin use among university students ("In search of that extra edge," 21 July). I had no idea that Ritalin was safe, effective, easily available, and used by a significant number of my peers. Now that I do, though, by God I'm not going to be left behind. Sometimes even my home-brewed intravenous caffeine and methamphetamine

concoctions can't give me the edge I need to make up for weeks of slacking. And when you need to prove yourself superior to your classmates and your fear of wasting daddy's money is as strong as mine, you had better find something.

It's a great comfort to me to know that I'll put Olympic athletes to shame. I just hope the U doesn't bring in random drug tests. I don't know if I can trust my friends' urine.

In all seriousness, it's disgraceful that university students of adult age are relying on Ritalin to compensate for their poor work ethic, disorganization, procrastination, or inadequate intelligence. These are supposed to be formative years, where important patterns of thought and behaviour are created, where challenges are presented and overcome, and where your character is forged. Instead, it seems that they are something of a pit-fight, fuelled by envy, insecurity, and big pharmaceuticals, and resulting in a dependence on external crutches to get you through hard times.

So to all of you pill-poppers out there, I hope you fail your next round of exams. That'll learn you. I hope you get a rash, too. I hope somebody pees on your mail. And I hope I have a buddy who can score me some Ritalin.

JOHN-ARCH MAGDOGALL
Science IV

A move to the Bay building is a mistake

Is the U of A seriously thinking about sending some of us downtown to take classes? ("U of A goes shopping for the Bay," 21 July)

That is a horrible idea. I know they claimed that it wasn't going to be for typical undergrads, but this kind of thing has a nasty way of changing. How long will it be before one of my required courses is only offered in the Bay building? I'm tired of get-

ting screwed by the University. Tuition goes up every year, we lost residence space for offices for God's sake, and now this nonsense. Enough is enough. If we're going to get screwed, we could at least have the convenience of not having to travel for it.

SARAH MAE
Arts II

Thanks to U of A for Masters' Games

I'm a participant in the World Masters Games in the 50-54 age group. My home is Elmira, Ontario, just north of Waterloo. I send this letter as the games take place.

The games have been a fabulous experience. I want to express how impressed I am with both Edmonton and the University of Alberta. I have found the residents most helpful and more importantly, very friendly.

I stayed on campus at Lister Hall. The young people working at the front desk were bombarded with an overload of questions and requests. They handled the situations with polite attitudes and smiles. My thanks to them.

The strongest reason for my letter is to pass on my sentiments to both staff and students at the University of Alberta. It is a warm and welcoming campus. I was extended friendly hellos from passers-by, young and old. I had many conversations with students and employees on campus. It is encouraging to experience how proud they are of their community. It is a very relaxed atmosphere on campus. I believe that this setting promotes success and enhances positive attitudes.

I had the privilege of touring parts of the geology department. A post-doctoral researcher, Jonathan Doupe, showed me around and, in layman's terms, explained some of his work. Fascinating to say the least.

The U of A bookstore staff was helpful in tracking down the "Diversity" poster found on many walls throughout campus. Thanks to

Todd, Kathy, Marilyn and Sharon.

I will promote U of A at my high school, Bluevale Collegiate in Waterloo. Thanks for a wonderful holiday.

JEFF MCMAHON
Elmira, Ontario

Milne, Cardinal, wrong

Though I found Jared Milne's 24 July article on Harold Cardinal (Aboriginal reconciliation can come only through respect and historical understanding) to be sentimental and optimistic, I think both his and Cardinal's views on the Aboriginal position in Canada, and in particular Trudeau's proposed white paper, slightly miss the mark.

There is a time when liberalism, despite the good it does, goes to far, and those trying to protect a culture really just slowly destroy it. It seems obvious to me that policies that have separated Canadians, be it along aboriginal/non-aboriginal or English/French lines, have done more harm than good in the past—witness the problems of the reservation system. Only by eliminating such barriers, as Trudeau proposed, can there ever be equality.

BRIAN SOBCHAK
Arts IV

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 304 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to opinion@gatewayualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication. Anonymous submissions will not be considered. Handwritten letters should be legible, written in English, and free of stains. Seriously.

Gender equity achieved—let's move on

Canada must keep Hans Island



DAVE BERRY

Three in five. In 40 years, when my body starts to break down after years of neglect and bar food, those will be the odds that the doctor responsible for helping me eke out a few more years of unhealthy living is going to be a woman. That's because this year a full 60 per cent of medical graduates in Canada were women. As a matter of fact, two schools, McMaster and the University of Montreal, actually had classes more than three-quarters composed of women.

Now, those numbers might seem fairly nondescript, but they're actually remarkably important. Medicine, specifically the advanced, non-nursing kind, is not only becoming equal in terms of sexual distribution, it's becoming tipped towards women. And this isn't some one-year anomaly, either: last year, 54 per cent of medical grads were women, and of classes that will graduate in the next four years, the number hovers somewhere around the high-50s. In fact, the only province that didn't graduate more women than men this past year was Alberta, and even that was one student away from a 50-50 split.

And, of course, medicine isn't the only field that this is happening in. While certain fields—notably engineering, but also law and computing science—remain, for the most part, male-dominated, postsecondary education in general tends to attract

more women than men. While the difference isn't always substantial, it is significant enough that some schools in the US, for instance, have actually started admitting males under affirmative action laws due to the overwhelming number of female applicants.

Whatever the reason for this shift in the gender scale, the more important fact is that, after years of speeches, lectures, theories and scholars fighting the good fight, gender parity is, more or less, reached. The fact that women can not only achieve the same levels as men in a traditionally masculine field but exceed them, greatly, suggests that to me that, finally, this is one fight that

years behind where we are now. Our politicians, our CEOs, our experienced pundits and analysts are all people in their 50s and 60s; to put it more bluntly, they would have graduated in the mid-70s, at the absolute earliest, an era when feminism was still just burning its training bra, so to speak. Given time, even as little as ten years, the graying figures of the elite will, for the most part, be incapacitated or dead, and newer, younger, more progressive counterparts will have filled their places—a fair number, I'm willing to bet, women.

What's more, outside of those backwards pockets of inequity, society—particularly pop culture—has pretty much come around. Yes, there are still plenty of pressures on women to fit certain gender roles, especially regarding attractiveness, but men now face similar stigmas, usually with four inches of muscle attached. I'll grant, society went the wrong way on this one, but it doesn't change the fact that things are more or less equal.

And while there will always be slight differences, it's fairly safe to say that, by now, those differences are more or less natural. Given that 60 per cent of medical grads in this country are women, I'm willing to bet that the reason professions like, say, engineering remain the domain of the hairy-chested has a lot more to do with happenstance preferences than a cadre of males denying anyone with breasts access to their iron ring fraternity.

It was long, it was hard, and I'm thankful I was only ever on the periphery of it, but I think that, finally, we can pretty much call this a battle won. I'm going to go have a drink to celebrate. And maybe some nachos.



ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI

Batoche, Queenston Heights, Chateaugay. These are places and battles etched into the Canadian subconscious, places where our nation's young last had to sacrifice their lives to assure our independence and freedom.

However, after more than a century of fighting wars across the oceans, our independence and peaceful way of life is now being challenged close to home. Once again, it's time for the government to call out the military and go on the offensive, defending our independence and territory—even if it means adding Hans Island to the list of Canadian battle honours.

For it seems that, after eternally watching across the Nares Strait, the crafty people of Denmark and their oathish appendage, Greenland, have decided that Hans Island is rightfully theirs. This, of course, disregards the fact that it's been ours since confederation, British prior to that, and that our minister of defense went to the trouble of flying up to the arctic to set foot on Hans Island. When you add to that the expeditions, flags and a miniature of the Vancouver 2010 logo that Canadians have previously built upon the ice, it's pretty much indisputably ours.

Yet, it seems that the Danes—being lured by the potentially inexhaustible supply of kippers, ambiguous natural resources and access to the North West Passage when global warming makes it travelable—want to get their hands on the arctic outcrop. They have even

gone so far as to draft a harshly worded letter to our minister of foreign affairs and characterize the defense minister's visit as an "occupation".

Now, as a serious world power, we can't take Denmark's affront to our sovereignty and independence lightly. If decisively crushing the Danish navy—or "ship" as it's more commonly known—doesn't prove to the world that we're serious about defending our territory and being a first-rate world power, then nothing will. Prime Minister Paul Martin should be standing in front of parliament, proclaiming that we will fight the Danes on the land, on the sea and in the air—or atop the rock and ice as the case may be—and that Canada will not be afraid to flex her military muscle to defend the Arctic.

Even though the confrontation over Hans Island will likely be resolved peacefully, Canada needs to be unwavering and willing to use force to maintain our claim to it, and, for that matter, any other territory in the frozen north that might come under dispute. That's because with global warming—and the unlocking of previously hidden resources and transportation routes—on the horizon, we can no longer take for granted that Canada's claim to arctic islands will go uncontested.

Only by showing the great lengths that Canada is willing to go to preserve our independence and sovereignty in the far north will all but the boldest marauders be deterred and Canada's ownership over the Arctic and its resources assured. If our allies in the United States can go to war for oil, and Britain over the Falklands, we should certainly be able to go to war for our sovereignty—and an island the size of Stanley Park.

Remember Hans Isle!

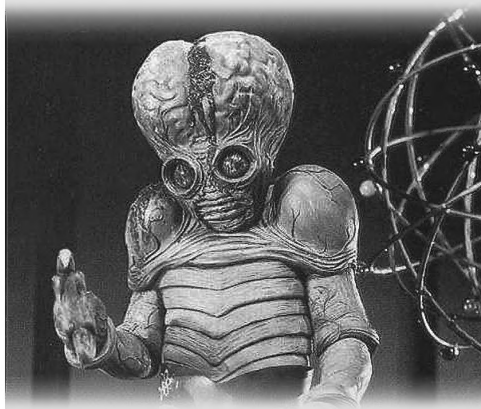
Yes, there are still plenty of pressures on women to fit certain gender roles, especially regarding attractiveness, but men now face similar stigmas, usually with four inches of muscle attached.

is pretty much won.

Okay, yes, some people will point to facts like continued wage discrepancies and lack of female authority figures—the popular example being CEOs—as proof that this struggle still isn't over, but that's overlooking something. Namely, that the world beyond university walls—particularly the world of power and decision-making—is still a good 30

Bleeargh! Ugh! Wuuuu-ooooooguhh!

Hey! What the hell is THAT thing? Don't worry, it's just Xax 5.3, our new Opinion Editor. He's replaced Tim because he managed to eat him by accident, somehow. Anyway, Xax 5.3 commands all of you puny Earth-hatchling zygate flesh-bags to volunteer for us, immediately! We'd hate to have any more accidents.



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WORLD MASTERS GAMES
EDMONTON • CANADA 05

World Masters Games 2005

a photo retrospective



Photos by: Edward Tse: Volleyball, Edward Tse: Badminton, Shaheed Merani: Basketball, Leanne Fong: Soccer, Mike Otto: Canoe Polo

Chicago Challengers the team to beat at the Masters



CHRIS O'LEARY
Sports Editor

They came into the World Masters Games with a bull's eye on them before anyone knew who was on their roster. They can thank Michael Jordan for that.

The 35-39 Chicago Challengers basketball team drew crowds at each of their five games at the World Masters with a roster that boasted a number of players with NBA and NCAA experience. True to the city's reputation, the Challengers played a physical and fast-paced game. As one would expect, their opposition was hungry to go home able to say that they beat a team from a city with an internationally renowned reputation as a breeding ground to some of the game's greats.

"Honestly speaking, being the American team, everywhere you go people are going to be gunning for you, so you always have to be ready,"

WILL BRANTLEY,

CHICAGO CHALLENGERS SHOOTING GUARD

The Challengers coasted through their first three games, winning by margins of 20, 31, and a whopping 78, respectively. Their competition got tougher over their final two games, as they were beaten by Canadian Sports Dream, a team from the 30-34 age bracket, 120-103. Canadian Sports Dream didn't buy in to any notion of being intimidated by the Challengers, having an experienced roster of their own.

"What puts a bull's eye on them is that they're a good team," said Sudbury, Ontario, native Dave Turcotte. A former national team member who spent four years playing at Colorado State, the feisty point guard saw the Challengers as competition, and nothing more. "A lot of us have

played for the national team, and we knew [the Challengers] were good players, but we knew they could only play five players at a time. This is a game we wanted to win. Any good team is going to have a bull's eye on them, so now we expect it's going to be us," he said.

The Challengers bounced back from their loss to win the gold medal for their division with a 90-82 victory over Baltic Star, a team from Russia. The Challengers seemed to live and die by the play of shooting guard Will Brantley. A college teammate of Gary Payton's at Oregon State, Brantley's silky-smooth outside game and athletic plays around the basket made him the most Jordan-like player on the Chicago team. Having regularly drawn the defensive assignment and consequent trash-talk of their opponent's best players, he admitted that the Challengers felt targeted by their opponents.

"Honestly speaking, being the American team, everywhere you go people are going to be gunning for you, so you always have to be ready," he said after dropping 20 points in the gold medal game. He took the competition in stride, however, and gave praise to his opponents.

"The team we lost to, they're a good team, a younger team. You have to give them their credit. The Russian team had a great player. He was a great shooter. In the second half, our goal was to contain him, to always know where he was. If they were gonna beat us, we were going to let everyone else do it, except for that guy. We changed our defense, focused on him, and that did it for us."

This was Brantley's first World Masters experience, and he said he'd definitely be back with the Challengers for the next Masters, to be played in Sydney, Australia in 2009.

"If every country is as beautiful as Canada, I'll absolutely do it again," he said. "The overall experience stands out for me. This being my first time in Edmonton, and getting to meet a lot of beautiful Canadian people, that's the thing that's going to stand out the most. I had a really good time here."

SLAM DUNK The Chicago Challengers brought Michael Jordan's legacy to the Masters Games

MATT REISNER

Former Canadian Olympic men's volleyball team still good to go

JAKE TROUGHTON
Senior News Editor

The 20th anniversary reunion of Canada's 1984 Olympic men's volleyball team may have come a year late, but it seems that it was worth the wait.

The team was going to have a reunion last year, but when Edmonton was announced as the host of the World Masters Games, they opted to put it off for a year and instead compete together once again. According to Terry Danyluk, one of the team members and current head coach of the Golden Bears volleyball team, the decision paid off.

"It was really fun," he said. "For not practicing together ever and just getting out on the floor, it was amazing how fast things came back. Because we spent so many hours in the gym together at another time in our lives, we just needed a bit of reminding to get it all going."

"It felt awesome, but I'm sure we weren't quite up to the standard we were 20 years ago," he added with a laugh.

Nine of the twelve players from the Los Angeles Olympics made it here, and with the help of some other former national team and college players they fielded teams in three age groups (40-plus, 45-plus, and 50-plus). Danyluk won gold on both the 40-plus team, Canuck Classic, and the 45-plus OPLA '84.

He hadn't played since suffering a severe meniscus tear in his knee three years ago, which he never had surgically repaired. But for the chance to get back on the court with his former teammates, he was willing to see how the knee would hold up, and he was pleased with the results.

"About a year ago I started to feel good and try some things, and I'm not sure if the scar



1 SPIKE The Saturday afternoon game between Total Mayhem (red jersey) and Team Rush (Blue jersey) ended with a Team Rush win.

LEANNE FONG

tissue has just healed up and fixed the tear for now, or maybe the nerve endings are dull, but it didn't bother me at all," said Danyluk, who mostly played the defensive libero position to reduce strain on the knee from jumping. "I was actually able to hit in one of the games, which I didn't think I'd ever be able to do again. It was awesome."

These were his first Masters Games, and the first time in years the former Olympians have played together, but he and his teammates had

so much fun that they're already contemplating future reunions, including a return appearance at the next Masters, in Sydney, Australia in 2009.

"We've talked about that pretty seriously," he said. "The next Games will be our silver anniversary, so we're going to see if we can get the entire team together, or as many as we can. It would be a great experience. I don't know if it would be the last time that we'd ever play, but we're seriously considering it. With it being our

25th anniversary, it's a good opportunity to go, and since we're defending champions, it's even better."

With the Games over, Danyluk has returned to work preparing for the upcoming Golden Bears season, and his players are having busy summers themselves. Five Bears, along with a sixth who just graduated, will compete at the World University Games later this month, and two more are headed for the Canada Games with Team Alberta.

Local coxswain coxed rowing team to victory

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Writer

Hillary Bakker may not be old enough to row in the World Masters Games, but that didn't keep her from collecting two gold medals. Bakker, a third-year science student at the U of A, competed as a coxswain (the person calling out commands, but not rowing) with both Canadian and international crews at the Games' rowing events in Leidschendam.

"A lot of crews from far away won't bring a coxswain because it's only one or two races, and the flight over is expensive," Bakker said. "I figured it would be excellent experience for the Canada Summer Games and the future."

Regatta organizers contacted Bakker because they had a crew from New Zealand who were looking for someone local to cox several of their races. She's an experienced coxswain from the U of A team, training this summer with the Calgary Rowing Club. There is no minimum age for a coxswain in master's competition, and Bakker received several additional requests to compete, including one from a crew led by Andrew Hoskins, who rowed for Canada in Athens last year.

"I got an e-mail saying there was a men's eight who needed a coxswain for the Games," Bakker explained. "Hoskins and a bunch of ex-national team guys who've rowed World Cup circuit [asked] 'do you want to do it?"

"I was like 'Sure, wow!'"

Bakker won a gold medal with that crew, and received valuable advice from the athletes in the boat.

"After we finished the race, I asked for some constructive criticism," Bakker said. "The stroke seat sat down, and went over a little bit with me."

"One thing that they said after we came off the water was that I had a good command of the boat. These are ex-national and national team guys, and they shut up when I talked. So that's something."

Bakker said she learned as much from the foreign crews that she coxed as from the elite Canadians.

"Any trip down the race course is good experience," she said. "And dealing with crews from all over the world gives you insight on how they figure races should go, and teaches you the different calls that they make."

The four that Bakker coxed from Walkato Rowing Club in New Zealand also won a gold medal, and the final for that event was her favourite memory of the Games.

"For the last 250 metres of the race we had open water on the second-place boat, which came as a shock to the guys. All we could hear was 'Go Waikato,' from the shore," Bakker said. "We crossed the finish, and I looked at my stroke seat, and he said, 'If it wasn't so old, and if I could bend that way, I'd kiss you.' These guys are about 65!"

Hockey player able to replicate his past success in the swimming pool

PAUL OWEN
Sports Writer

David Russell took 44 years to earn his second medal on the international stage, but only an extra day to add his third. The Trail, BC native, who played on the 1961 world champion Trail Smoke Eaters hockey team, won bronze in the 70-74 year old 50m butterfly at the World Masters Games last week, and followed it up with a golden performance the next day in the 70-74 100m butterfly. The two medals were simply the latest in a long list of accolades for the life-long athlete, and maybe a bit of a surprise.

"I've only swam the 50m fly long course in competition once before, so I was kind of nervous about it, but it turned out alright," explained the 72-year-old Russell. "I was really apprehensive about the 100m fly because I've never done it in competition before, and I tried to build for it and build for it, and I finished it and I really didn't suffer that much."

Even before Russell won gold with the '61 Smoke Eaters, he played on his hometown senior baseball team that would later be inducted into the Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame. Upon moving to Trail—where he would settle and raise his family with Marlene, his wife of 50 years—Russell would join the hockey team that would win the World Championship in 1961 and struggle through an injury-riddled tourna-

ment in 1963 to finish fourth.

By 1967, however, Russell had enough. "I'd be on the ice and get this feeling of, 'What am I doing here!'" he said. Russell moved on to other sports, including competitive slo-pitch and bike racing. He also became quite the cross-country skier, winning two silver medals at national championships and finishing twelfth and 14th at world championships. But as Russell grew older, he developed knee problems, and was left one sporting respect: swimming.

"I have a disease: every sport I try I end up competing in. When I started swimming, six months after I started taking lessons I got talked into going to a meet for seniors and got my rear end kicked good and proper."

DAVID RUSSELL
TWO-TIME SWIMMING MEDALIST

"I've been in many sports, and when you grow older, water is the last place you can go. I'm down to swimming because there's no

impact, and it's good stretching for a person my age and it certainly builds strength and stamina," he said. "I started taking basic Red Cross lessons like my grandchildren when I was 58. I have a disease: every sport I try I end up competing in. When I started swimming, six months after I started taking lessons I got talked into going to a meet for seniors and got my rear end kicked good and proper."


Russell wanted to get better, and without a coach or a swim club in the small town of Trail, he trained himself, striving to beat his own times in the butterfly, freestyle and backstroke. "I get printouts and balance my time on doing the three strokes better."

When the World Masters came to Edmonton, Russell saw one more chance to compete on the world stage. "I really wanted the experience. With the high competition I had no thoughts of being a top competitor, I just wanted to be here and see some top swimming."

The Games gave Russell one more chance to capture that golden moment, but despite all his accolades in his long career, sport has meant so much more to him.

"All the stuff that I've ever done has never been for medals or anything else. It's a lifestyle that keeps you in good condition—I rebuilt my house—and allows you to work harder and longer and do a better job, and that's what comes from committing yourself to fitness."

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SIDE BY SIDE Competitors of all ages participated in the during triathlon event

MICHELLE RAI



SPLASH The Masters games were not only host to major sports, but also some lesser-known ones as well. Pictured above is a rousing game of canoe polo, a sport much like a combination of water polo, basketball and canoeing. Players can only hold the ball for a maximum of five seconds before they have to get rid of it, but can throw the ball ahead of themselves to "dribble". Ironically, despite being called canoe polo, the players don't use cumbersome canoes, but instead house themselves in lightweight kayaks. This distinction has given canoe polo the nickname "kayak polo".

MIKE TROT

Games not just a large intramural



ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI

Sports
Commentary

They came from around the world, most only with faint hope for a podium placing—yet still they came. Whether they came from down under or just around the corner, all the participants in the World Masters Games played with passion, determination and honour—qualities sorely lacking among many in the pro sporting realm these days.

One only needs to juxtapose the World Masters Games to what was dominating the sports pages when it opened—a bitter feud between millionaires and billionaires and a boorish pitcher throwing around a few cameras. Yet, during the games, scarcely a cross word was uttered about these problems, as everyone managed to take the hiccups in stride and enjoy their time playing a common game. That was refreshing in a world where oversized egos have replaced playing for the love of the game itself.

Here thousands of people, ranging from ex-Olympians and pro players to people cut from their little league baseball teams, arrived after paying their own way to have a chance to pursue a passion. Though, in the end, some players left having received more medical attention than medals, they somehow managed to maintain high spirits and an undiminished enthusiasm simply because they had an opportunity to compete.

Even at the elite level of the different sports where the ex-Olympians, pros and university athletes faced

off, rarely did they ignore the fact that they were there for anything more than the love of the game. It was inspiring to see players put up scoring chances on the ice or give up a free drive to the bucket and humbly admit they had violated the rules instead of berating an official over a call. It seems that there are still a few places where how you play the game remains more important than winning.

That doesn't mean the Masters' athletes didn't go full out or weren't driven to win or place as best as they possibly could. To look upon the dejected faces of the players after a close loss, or witness a softball player making a spectacular diving catch, it was impossible to believe that they didn't want to win. The eyes are supposed to be the window to the soul and in the finals, I had the opportunity to watch all the athletes stride into their venues with at least the same intensity and passion as a player on the eve of the Stanley Cup Final.

Some people around the city, not excluding some local media, underrated the games or chose to scoff and label it as the world's largest intramural tournament, dropping needling comments about people making futile attempts to seize childhood dreams. These people truly missed the spirit of the games, because it was precisely the ability for anyone to compete and fuel their passion for sports that made the World Masters Games such a remarkable event.

That's because, as Heywood Brown once said, "Sports do not build character; they reveal it," and throughout the games, we were treated to a display of what being an athlete and playing sports is truly about—passion, determination, sportsmanship and playing for the love of the game.

Edmonton totally overreacted to the Masters



JAKE TROUGHTON

Sports
Commentary

It seems there's nothing like the World Masters Games to validate the existence of an insecure little 'burgh. Well, maybe there are some things like it—the powers that be in Edmonton certainly hope so, since they keep bidding for virtually every event that involves people from more than one country (and a fair number that don't). Nonetheless, the Games that concluded on Sunday are definitely one of the things that there's nothing quite like for existence-validation purposes, and boy, has our existence ever been validated—at least until the Women's Rugby World Cup next summer, anyway.

Of course, there are those who would argue that an entire city taking pride in hosting an event that none of us had ever heard of until it was announced that we were going to host it is sort of silly, and those people would be right. But hey, people from honest-to-God other countries came here; that means they know we exist! If they know we exist, we must be a world-class city, and while no one's entirely sure just what a "world-class" city is, everyone knows that only a backwater rube would want to live in any other kind of city.

Don't get me wrong; the Games are a genuinely good thing, what with bringing people together, showing that sport can be a lifetime endeavour, and everything else you've heard and read about from pretty much every media outlet in the city.

The sheer amount of self-

"It is a truly pathetic display the way this city madly grasps at anything that some bigwigs hope will 'put us on the map' (except, tellingly, the Olympics, the only event that actually would). Like a little kid desperate to make new friends, we jump at any opportunity to get attention without giving the matter any thought."

congratulatory noise heard during the Games, though, was ridiculous. Graham Hicks of the *Edmonton Sun* even reported that organizers are floating the idea of instituting a North American version of the Games, and suggested hosting it in Edmonton every time. You could almost see our collective thumb going to our collective nose as we proudly announced to the rest of the world that anything they don't want to do, we can do better.

It is a truly pathetic display the way this city madly grasps at anything that some bigwigs hope will "put us on the map" (except, tellingly, the Olympics, the only event that actually would). Like a little kid desperate to make new friends, we jump at any opportunity to get attention without giving the matter any thought. Earlier this year, City Councillor Mike Nicol backed a group pushing the City to finance a bid for the 2015 World's Fair. They made some noise, then looked into it—only to quietly slip away when they realized that they'd missed the deadline to submit bids by several months. In many ways, this was Edmonton at its most Edmontonian.

Truth be told, our self-awarded reputation for greatness as hosts is exaggerated anyway. The wildly successful 2002 FIFA Women's U19 World Championship and the 2001 World Championships in Athletics are frequently cited; that's because you have to go back to the 1983

World University Games to find anything else that comes close.

You certainly don't hear many people bring up the 2004 World Cup of Women's Baseball, which drew Cracker-Cat-sized crowds to Telus Field. Some mention last month's Grand Prix of Edmonton, which at least large numbers of people actually spent money to see, but it's nothing that dozens of other North American cities haven't done many times before. Some also mention the Churchill Cup of rugby, though it's hard to see why given that the best rugby you can see in North America failed to draw even 10 000 people to the 60 000-seat Commonwealth Stadium. According to the idle boasts of our civic boosters, though, that's enough to warrant hosting the aforementioned World Cup and trying to land an the International Rugby Board Sevens rugby tour stop, even though, much as I'd love to attend, the IRB could instead host such events in places where people actually know and care about the sport.

Not that there's anything wrong with hosting such events. On the contrary, they're great, and the Masters Games were great for many thousands of people. But the fact that those people happened to converge in Edmonton rather than somewhere else doesn't magically make the city a better place than it was. If this wasn't a world-class city before, it still isn't now—and if it were, there wouldn't be so many of us worrying about it.

Edmonton duo ready to Strut their stuff

Vertical Struts deal with touring, recording and getting their gear stolen in their own unique, retro, half-straight, half-gay style



TWO OF A KIND Trevor Anderson (left) and Raymond Biesinger (right) make up the dynamic duo known as the Vertical Struts, purveyors of husky, simmering vocals and foot-tapping rhythms. **MICHAEL LIU**

Vertical Struts

with *Lazersnake*
Friday, 19 August
Victory Lounge

MICHAEL LIU
Arts & Entertainment Writer

It can be hard to exist as a band when a lot of the legwork falls onto the musicians, and even harder when the band only has two pairs of legs to work with. For the Vertical Struts, one of Edmonton's most popular and enduring rock duos, this summer has certainly kept them on their feet.

The blues-influenced garage rockers, consisting of local artist Raymond Biesinger on guitars and vocals and director/Wet Secret Trevor Anderson on drums, took time off their summer tour to return to the studio to record

their first full-length, set to be released in October on Pop Echo records. On top of that, the group will soon be heading off on another tour to help promote it.

However, coping with touring, recording, and side projects simultaneously has given the Vertical Struts a chance to showcase new material without departing from their roots.

"We want to put out the best record we can," explains Anderson. "We've recorded ten songs with the brilliant Nik Kozub. Some are old—one, 'Girlfriend Boyfriend,' is the second song we ever wrote—and some are very new. One, called 'Shhh,' was written in the studio and has never been heard otherwise."

The juggling act was not a piece of cake, though. In May, the band lost all their instruments and merchandise to theft in Vancouver, ironic considering they were touring with a band called the Fake Cops. This put an unpleas-

ant dent in the otherwise successful release of their seven-inch vinyl, *Blues from an Airplane*. Not to be deterred, the Vertical Struts remain as poised as ever to strike back in full force.

"We figure a blazingly successful CD release tour is the best reaction we can have to getting ripped off," declares Anderson proudly.

Their paired-down, bluesy sound will probably help with blazing success. On *Blues from an Airplane*, it's easy to be mesmerized by Biesinger's husky, simmering vocals, backed up by an amplified guitar and Anderson's foot-tapping rhythms.

Despite the pressures of rising success, the duo remains "loud and proud" about their unconventional style. Without compromising originality, they have managed to remain unique and pertinent throughout the years. For example, they insist on using 1960s instruments, rather than the pedantic over-editing

that is now typical in popular music, to give them a rawer sound. Even their album covers are designed with retro nostalgia in mind.

"It's not like we're trying for mainstream radio careers," says Anderson, when asked about the pressure to conform.

Of course, not being mainstream comes pretty naturally to the band. In addition to their unique, two-piece sound, one of the two Struts, Anderson, is gay, and the duo has never shied away from visiting queer themes in their work, whether its recording in the studio or playing in places not as accepting of the lifestyle, like Red Deer or Camrose. For the Struts, it's just a part of who they are, as people and as a band.

"We are one-half straight, one-half gay," says Biesinger frankly. "And it would be wrong to cover up half of that voice."

"Plus I think it's cool and punk to be a homo," adds Anderson.

Dust like a friend's kick-ass story with breathtaking cinematography



Dust to Glory

Directed by Dana Brown
Metro Cinema
5-8 August, 9:15pm

DANIEL KASZOR
Editor-in-Chief

The Baja 1000 is a grueling off-road race across Mexico, where any type of vehicle can enter, and racers put their lives on the line for little reward other than the rush and the glory. In his new film, *From Dust to Glory*, documentary director Dana Brown follows the stories of a few of the racers chasing the dream of winning, or in some cases just finishing, the world's longest point-to-point race.

While telling the story of the race, Brown uses a cinematic style popularized by his father, Bruce Brown. In 1966, the elder Brown culminated over ten years of documentary filmmaking by putting together what was, and arguably still is, the greatest surfing movie ever made: *The Endless Summer*. The film plays out like the world's greatest anecdote, with the director's voice narrating over everything like he was telling the story at a party, not explaining a piece of stuffy cinema.

The younger Brown uses his father's narrative style and anecdotal storytelling to great effect in *From Dust to Glory*, drawing the viewer into a culture that might seem more alien than that of the average surfer. Choosing a handful of stories within the greater framework of the race, Brown is able to make the drivers' seeming obsession with the outright dangerous and sometimes fatal

race seem understandable, and edits their stories together in such a way as to keep the audience guessing, and more importantly caring, about how each of the racers will fare on their quest for glory.

Also present is the breathtaking cinematography that Brown perfected in his solo directing debut, *Step Into Liquid*. It's a shame that this film won't be shown on the IMAX screen, as some of the helicopter pans and POV vehicle shots would be spectacular projected seven stories tall. One scene in particular, of a dirt-bike rider jumping off the track and cutting a shortcut onto the beach, looked so amazing that it almost seemed to be contrived. Of course, if the shot had been set up, it probably wouldn't have had the vibrancy or the urgent speed of the finished product.

That said, the laid-back, conversational-style storytelling does get tiring after a while. There is a sense that Brown wanted to tell so much about all of the interesting people who met that sometimes it seems like narrative coherence is lost. Racers' names and vehicles tend to pile on top of one another as you try and remember which truck was the one that ran out of gas and which was the one that was falling apart. There is an impression that there was a lot of footage, and sometimes Brown had trouble massaging the most interesting tidbits into a cohesive story.

However, the touch of narrative dissidence is a part of the film's anecdotal tone that gives the movie much of its charm. In the end, the film is like having your best friend go on a kick-ass trip and bringing back some pretty cool stories: it can be wandering and a little scattered, but it's a film well worth seeing.

Falling Head over heels in love

Gritty, emotional *Head-On* about finding love in some unexpected places



Head-On

Starring Sibel Kekilli, Bülent Uenal, Catrin Steinhilber, and Güven Kocog
Directed by Fatih Akin
5-8 August, 7pm
Metro Cinema

TONY SANTIN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Love can happen in some of the strangest ways and under the most unexpected circumstances, whether it be between an alcoholic and a prostitute, as in *Leaving Las Vegas*, a Louisiana death-row executioner and a poor black woman in *Monster's Ball* or, in the case of Fatih Akin's award-winning film *Head-On*, between two attempted suicide cases.

We're first introduced to Cahit (Bülent Uenal), a Turkish immigrant living in Germany, who is stuck in a downward spiral of depression and substance abuse. While seated in a hospital waiting room after a failed suicide attempt, he is approached by Sebül (Sibel Kekilli), another Turkish immigrant who is also recovering from a suicide attempt, though hers is a cry for help,

in the form of freedom from her conservative Muslim family. She proposes the idea of a sham marriage with Cahit so that she can finally get the liberty she desires, an idea to which Cahit reluctantly agrees. Although they continue to see other people while together, a strange sort of bond slowly begins to build between them. However, their fledgling love is tested after Cahit accidentally kills a man in a fit of jealous rage. Sebül is then disowned by her family, and flees to Turkey to live with her sister, waiting to see if her and Cahit could ever return to what they had before the incident.

Head-On is an immensely gritty portrayal of two people who have hit rock bottom and yet manage to find an escape from their personal miseries in each other. There is an unending display of emotionally wrought and charged scenes. One that is particularly hard to watch is Sebül's downward spiral into depression after Cahit's imprisonment, which even leads to her being beaten and stabbed in the streets of Istanbul after she incites a group of caulkers. The freedom that she sought so much while in

Germany with her family proves to be her undoing. But amidst the self-destruction, and there is plenty of that, there are also moments of compassion. Watching bonds slowly develop between Cahit and Sebül gives the film an interesting sense of urgency not unlike that between Nicholas Cage and Elizabeth Shue in the aforementioned *Leaving Las Vegas*.

Perhaps the only real failing of *Head-On* is with the pacing of the film's storyline. The time scale of events is very murky even at the best of times, making it difficult for the viewer to fully grasp the significance of the events portrayed. Though the film takes place over a span of at least a couple of years, the time scale appears more like a few weeks at the most.

But time issues aside, this is an intense and deep portrayal of two people who manage to make a connection despite the chaos of their lives. The inclusion of the ethnic dynamic, which is far more socio-politically relevant back in Germany allows an even deeper storyline to unfold. For all lovers of foreign film, this is not one to be missed.

She finally speaks!

After months of silence, Jennifer Aniston has finally come clean about her breakup with the *Gateway*. Though she misses us terribly, she just felt it was best to see other papers right now. We, on the other hand, hope that ungrateful skank gets what's coming to her, and we're definitely looking for a little something on the rebound.

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Fringe beats the back-to-school blues

153 theatre companies set to take over Edmonton for Fringe-a-Go-Go

VIVIAN MENDOZA
Arts & Entertainment Writer

With September fast approaching, we're bombarded with memories of crowded lecture halls, the fresh stretch of stress, and all that makes up another glorious fall term at the University. But instead of fretting about how to spend the last remaining days of vacation, money on down to the Edmonton Fringe Festival—the last, and most anticipated, festival of the summer.

Expanding on the ever-growing success of the August festival, this year's Fringe, titled "Fringe-a-Go-Go", will be the biggest yet, thanks to the addition of a 13th venue, called the "Planet Ze Design Studio," allowing for the accommodation of the 153 theatre companies that Edmonton will be hosting from 19-28 August. The Edmonton Fringe will dedicate half of its plays to local Edmonton writers, with another 30 per cent going to other Canadian and American playwrights. The final 20 per cent will be international writers from countries including Scotland,

New Zealand, England and Mexico. The festival has become so big this year that it's getting international recognition: the Edmonton Fringe was included in a recent summer issue of *Q*, the Oprah magazine.

Adults who are jealous of the KidsFringe's young theatre programs can count on a second year of the popular "Fringe Forums". These are workshops for the adult Fringer wanting more behind-the-scenes information about theatre and the Fringe. There are four workshops, including "Homebuilder's Theatre", which discusses what goes into making theatre happen, and "The Future and History of the Fringe", detailing the, uh, future and history of the Fringe; there is also "Fringe Post Script", which gives suggestions to playwrights, actors, directors, and regular folk on how to further their theatre career and "Fringe Versus Art", a semi-controversial topic discussion.

Fringe Festival Director Miki Stricker has a few more suggestions about the best way to get your Fringe together.

"First, people should purchase a guide available from local 7-11 stores for a mere \$6," said Miki. "This is your ultimate guide to the entire set of Fringe plays. We're trying to encourage patrons to watch at least one play this year."

To complement their push to get more people out to see a play this year, Fringe organizers have worked to decrease the problem of finding parking close to the action—at least for your friends and family. There are new patron drop-off zones named "Stop, Drop, and Walk". These zones allow patrons, namely you, to drop off friends and go find parking spaces. As well, new benches are now lining the edges of play venues to accommodate strollers and wheelchairs.

Instead of marinating in your own juices in front of the oh-so-familiar reality shows, get yourself down to the Fringe, where the entertainment involves actual people rather than strategic flashes of light from a box. Besides, what better way to avoid the stress of impending school?

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